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The Roman Assemblies from Their Origin to the End of the Republic.

By GEORGE WILLIS BOTSFORD. New York: Macmillan, 1909.

Pp. x+521. \$4 net.

It has been a source of wonderment to visiting scholars from Germany that in this country so little serious attention has been paid to the study and investigation of ancient history. Professors of modern history, and their laudable works, we have been able to present to the notice of our guests in abundance, but professors of ancient history have been far to seek, even in our best-equipped universities. Most of the studies in ancient history which really deserved attention have been published by men whose titular rank, and much of whose academic work, was in the broad field of classical philology. It is to be hoped that our classical philologists will not cease to be students of ancient history, and now and then to have a word to say about its problems. But our dearth of actual and titular specialists in that department has been a lamentable thing. There are frequent and welcome signs that this dearth is not to be perpetual, and the publication of Professor Botsford's study of the Roman assemblies is a very vigorous indication of the new life, which even the pages of a journal devoted to the interests of the classics in secondary schools should greet with acclaim. A critical discussion of its argumentative features, which richly deserve discussion, and will be sure to provoke it, must properly be left to more technical publications. The author's views on certain of the topics, on which he does not hesitate to controvert (successfully, as it appears to us) opinions stoutly advanced by great names in the ancient field, have been already presented by him in separate articles, and more briefly in his manuals of the general history of Rome. His constructive chronological review of comitial legislation is of the highest interest as well as importance, and much of it might command the attention of even an elementary student, and help him to see that the history of a people is much more than a story of its wars or even of its trade. It is needless to say that every teacher of ancient history, even in secondary schools, should read and digest Professor Botsford's book, and it should not fail to find a place on the reference-shelf of the school library alongside Mr. Greenidge's work on Roman Public Life. Just to indicate that the reviewer has taken his own advice, and read the book with attention, he ventures to suggest that though the case of Octavian is "the only well-known case" of testamentary adoption within the period covered by the book, the reader might have been guarded against possible misapprehension if he had been told (p. 161) that numerous instances (apparently for the most part *hereditatis causa*) are known from imperial times, though juristic details are singularly lacking. On the other hand it would also have been well in the same connection to remark that while we are comparatively well informed concerning the legal conditions of *adrogatio* by a living *pater familias*, the case of Clodius is our one actual instance of reference. Dolabella's case, to be sure, was similar, but only the bare fact is known; nor do other examples equip us with any further information concerning details of procedure. Also the remark in note 6 on page 246 might have been more precisely

phrased. The penalty for false witness through which conviction was secured was the same as that affixed to the offense falsely charged; but that is not precisely the same thing as saying that "Roman law regarded false testimony in capital cases as murder," nor is it sufficient reason for saying that "hence the prosecution of Minucius might legally have come before the quaestors."

E. T. M.

A GROUP OF RECENT LATIN TEXTS

In these days, when the oft-repeated prayer of teachers in secondary schools bids fair to be answered by some relaxation in the stiffness of the canon of authors required for admission to college, it is not out of place for a journal like this to call attention to the publication of new editions of texts, even if they are not primarily prepared for school readings in America.

Some of the best parts of the Roman lyrics and elegiacs are not above the understanding of pupils in their fourth year of the study of Latin. Biese's *Römische Elegiker* (2d ed., Leipzig, Freytag, 1907) furnishes an excellent selection from Catullus, Tibullus, Propertius, and Ovid in convenient and cheap form, and his notes may be taken as a model by those who find the chief merit of notes in their brevity. Curtius Rufus is another author whose work might well be drawn upon for school reading: Alexander the Great is sure to be an interesting figure to students of all ages. The text by Hedicke has now reached a second edition (Leipzig, Teubner, 1908, ed. mai., M. 3.60). The *editio minor* omits the *apparatus criticus*, and is cheaper (M. 1.20). Teachers will welcome the edition of the same author with notes by Theodor Vogel, the second part of which, covering Books vi-x, under the revising hand of Alfred Weinhold, has reached its third edition (Leipzig, Teubner).

Livy, too, may in the golden days to come find some place in the curriculum of the preparatory school in this country as it long ago found it in England. New editions of the text are constantly appearing. On the desk of this *Journal* lie the revision by Wilhelm Heraeus of the Weissenborn text of Livy, Books xxxix and xl (Leipzig, Teubner, 1908. M. 0.85), while in the well-known series of excellently edited and printed texts from the combined houses of Freytag and Tempsky, in Leipzig and Vienna respectively, appear new editions of Books i, ii, xxi, xxii (with interesting selections from other books), edited by Zingerle-Scheindler, and of Books xxi, xxii, xxiii, xxiv, and xxx by Zingerle-Albrecht. In this same series the *Histories and Minor Works of Tacitus* by Johann Müller has reached a second edition. These books of the Freytag-Tempsky series are all without notes, but have on occasion maps, indices, and now and then an *excursus*. Moreover, they are moderate in price, costing (bound) M. 2, or less.

In the Teubner series of texts with notes (German) the justly prized edition of the *Annals of Tacitus* by A. Draeger is being issued in its seventh edition under the editorial care of Wilhelm Heraeus. The first part, containing Annals i-ii,